

Citizens Advisory Committee on Pipeline Safety
Meeting Minutes Summary
Location: WUTC - Bellevue, WA
March 23, 2004

* PLEASE NOTE * The web links in this document are not active. Please go to the text version of the minutes on the Committee's website to view the links.

Present

Chuck Mosher, Chair
Shirley Olson
Duane Henderson
Grant Jensen
Pat Morgan
George Hills
Richard Kuprewicz
Ken Thomas
Les Olson
Don Evans
Carl Weimer

Members of the public in attendance

Katie Hansen, Washington State City/County Pipeline Safety Consortium
Marianna Achey, Roundtable Associates
Dan Meredith, Cascade Natural Gas
Dan Kirschner, Northwest Gas Association
David Kerr, City of Bellevue
Earl Tower, BP Olympic Pipeline Company
Dorothy Bracken, Puget Sound Energy
Grant Ringel, Puget Sound Energy
Nate Moxley, Community Coalition for Environmental Justice
Kathy, Community Coalition for Environmental Justice

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Adoption of February 19, 2004 Minutes
2. WUTC Public Awareness Study
3. American Petroleum Institute RP 1162 Presentations from committee industry representatives
4. WUTC Pipeline Safety Update
5. Other Items of Business

***NOTE:** There was no public comments made during the March 23, 2004 Committee meeting.

1. **Welcome and Adoption of February 19, 2004 Meeting Minutes** – Chairman Chuck Mosher welcomed everyone to the meeting of the State of Washington Citizens Committee on Pipeline

Safety. The minutes were approved as modified by the committee. The minutes can be viewed on the committee's website <http://www.wutc.wa.gov/pipeline/ccops>.

2. **WUTC Public Awareness Study** – Tim Sweeney, WUTC Public Affairs, presented information to the committee on the study funded by the WUTC and conducted by The Frause Group. [Please follow this link to review the presentation by Tim Sweeney.](#)

Some interested characteristics were derived from the study/survey:

- Pipeline safety is not a top priority to most citizens.
- If citizens do want to learn more about pipelines, they have no knowledge of where to get it.
- Those that are aware of pipelines are the ones that are more comfortable with the pipeline and the industry.
- When asked who they trust to receive pipeline safety information, a majority of the respondents said firefighters.

Committee member Pat Morgan suggested that the experts on pipeline safety (whether industry or regulators) go to local fire stations once a month for a few hours to answer citizens' questions on pipeline safety. The committee members also felt it was crucial to find a central organization to put out the pipeline safety message.

The final WUTC public awareness study will be distributed as soon as possible.

3. **American Petroleum Institute RP 1162 Presentations from committee industry representatives** – The members of the committee requested some information from the industry members of the Citizens committee on the American Petroleum Institute's (API) Recommended Practice (RP) 1162. The RP was adopted by API in the fall of 2003 and deals with the public awareness programs of pipeline companies (making those that live near the pipeline aware that it's there and providing certain safety information that they should know). Dan Kirschner gave a presentation to the committee on behalf of the natural gas companies that the NW Gas Association represents (Puget Sound Energy, Cascade Natural Gas, Avista Utilities). [Please click on this link to review the presentation from Northwest Gas Association.](#)

Committee member George Hills with McChord Pipeline Company informed the committee of the pipeline awareness that his company has been doing. Mr. Hills explained that McChord Pipeline Company has 14.25 miles of petroleum pipeline in Pierce County. Along the pipeline there are 350 residents, two schools and two churches. McChord communicates with those along the pipeline, including contractors that frequently do work near the pipeline, by handing out flyers, magnets and other information items about the McChord pipeline.

Committee member Grant Jensen with Williams Northwest Pipeline explained to the committee the specific items that his company is doing while Williams is hydrotesting segments of the 26-inch pipeline. Mr. Jensen informed the committee that his company is hanging door hangers at the houses near the hydrotesting. In addition, Williams mailed a letter to citizens and first responders along the Interstate 5 corridor. The letter explained the hydrostatic testing of the pipeline and the potential replacement of the 26-inch pipeline. Mr. Jensen explained that Williams Pipeline Company is utilizing API 1162 as a model public awareness program.

4. **WUTC Pipeline Safety Update** - Alan Rathbun, WUTC Pipeline Safety Director, gave an update on the current events in the pipeline safety section.

OPS Interstate Agent Meeting:

On February 25-26 a meeting was held in Alexandria, Virginia. Alan Rathbun and Kim West represented the WUTC Pipeline Safety Program. Stacey Gerard was in attendance for nearly the entire session. Samuel Bonasso, Deputy Administrator gave a brief summary of RSPA initiatives and some interesting statistics. Approximately 2/3 (67%) of the BTUs consumed by this nation are transported by pipelines. Relative to the future, it is estimated that by 2025, 50% of the nation's natural gas will come from LNG.

Relative to initiatives, Stacey and Samuel spoke on the following: (1) establishment of a standardized methodology on crisis management; (2) improved communications; (3) improved accountability; (4) clarify and improve the OPS enforcement process; and (4) increase availability of pipeline safety data to local governments and the public.

Williams Pipeline – Amended Corrective Action Order Update:

In accordance with the amended CAO, Williams has commenced a hydrostatic testing program on segments of the 26-inch pipeline in order to temporarily bring these segments back into service. A protocol for these tests has been approved by OPS and the WUTC is witnessing the pressure tests, which are currently being run from just north of Woodinville to just south of Lake Stevens. This segment is approximately 15.7 miles long and has been divided into 11 test sections. To date, Williams has completed 8 sections. All but one section has been successfully tested. The remaining section is awaiting confirmation through additional calculations acceptable to OPS. If all 11 sections are confirmed as successfully passing the hydrostatic test, Williams will likely ask OPS to return this segment back to full operating pressure.

The next hydrostatic testing segment is scheduled to be Ft. Lewis to Chehalis, scheduled to begin as early as March 29.

A second amendment to the CAO is expected from OPS in the next week or so. This amendment is in response to the request for clarification by Williams in a hearing on January 21, 2004.

BP Olympic:

The United States District Court issued a summary judgment in the matter of Olympic v. City of Seattle and you were forwarded a copy of the judge's order.

One-Call OPS Grant Application:

OPS has awarded a grant to the WUTC in the amount of nearly \$47,000. As reported last month, the majority of this grant is aimed at the development of a consistent, reliable damage reporting system by the NW Regional Common Ground Alliance. Approximately \$10,000 of the grant will be used to increase membership in the one-call system in concert with the Washington Utilities Coordination Council.

Request for Interpretation of CFR 192 to OPS:

On June 26, 2001, WUTC Pipeline Safety Director made a written request to OPS for an interpretation of CFR 192 specifically related to the need to pressure test pipeline components that were welded in the field and not certified for strength by the manufacturer. We have not received a response to this request either orally or in writing. Staff has made numerous attempts to check on the status of this request without a satisfactory response.

Staff requests the Committee direct a letter to the OPS Manager of Regulations, with a copy to the Associate Administrator, requesting an immediate response to our request for interpretation.

5. **Other Items of Business** – The committee members discussed the issue of who signs for the committee on letters. Pat Morgan suggested that the whole committee, rather than the Chair, should sign the letters. Other members felt that it would be problematic to get everyone's signatures in a timely manner. Other's suggested having a letterhead made up with all the names of the committee members and then continuing to have the Chair sign the letters.

Items for the next meeting agenda

WUTC's request for interpretation of CFR 192 to OPS.